

a plurality of stage units setting the mirror face unit to a shape, which contacts a back surface of the mirror unit.

3. (ONCE AMENDED) The variable wavelength dispersion compensator according to claim 2, wherein said mirror face unit is a thin plate comprising a variable elasticity.

4. (ONCE AMENDED) The variable wavelength dispersion compensator according to claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of surface-shape variable mirror units; and

a branching unit branching the angular-dispersed beams into a plurality of beam groups with different wavelengths, wherein the plurality of said surface-shape variable mirror units are provided and each surface shape is set where wavelength dispersion is compensated for each branched beam group.

5. (ONCE AMENDED) The variable wavelength dispersion compensator according to claim 4, wherein the plurality of said surface-shape variable mirror units are incorporated into the surface-shape variable mirror unit, which comprises the transformable surface transformed in a two-dimensional direction so that each branched beam group is received on a part of the surface and a prescribed wavelength dispersion is given to the branched beam group.

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed November 6, 2002 the Examiner noted that claims 1-7 were pending, that claims and rejected claims 1-7. Claims 1-5 have been amended for purposes of improving clarity and antecedent support.

Claims 1-7 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

In the Office Action, at page 2, claims 1, 2, and 4-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,343,866 to Cao et al. ("Cao"). This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

With a variable wavelength dispersion compensator incorporating a VIPA, when reflecting a beam released from the VISA by a mirror, the shape of the mirror face determines